

Aerial search in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — An aerial search began in poor visibility Tuesday one day after a plane carrying 14 people, including U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, disappeared en route to a refugee camp in southwestern Ethiopia. Ethiopia's civil aviation authority began the search with several light aircraft. Just before 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT), Civil aviation authorities said a C-130 Hercules cargo plane, which was heading to the U.S. embassy official John Guerra said the plane reported heavy clouds and poor visibility in the area of the search, which was following the general route the pilot of Leland's plane would have taken to the Fugalo refugee camp near Ethiopia's border with Sudan. The Twin Otter aircraft carrying Leland and eight other Americans, including staff members and U.S. embassy personnel, was last heard from by radio at about 10:45 a.m. (0745 GMT) Monday, about 15 minutes after it left Ethiopia's Bole airport in Addis Ababa, Guerra said. Five Ethiopians, including three government officials, the pilot and co-pilot, also were aboard the airplane owned by Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the government relief agency.

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Sheikh Jaber receives message from King

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Tuesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations and the current situation in the Arab world.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not give details of the message, which was delivered by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, who is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qassem on a working visit to Kuwait.

Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah attended the meeting.

Later, Sharif Zaid held talks with Sheikh Sabah on bilateral relations and means of boosting cooperation in various fields as well as topics of mutual concern to Jordan and Kuwait, Petra said.

A Jordanian official quoted by the AP said in Amman that the premier was to discuss "with our Kuwaiti brethren Jordan's economic and financial status."

Jordan is seeking Arab aid to reschedule part of its \$8 billion foreign debt.

Kuwait gave Jordan \$80 million — \$40 million in cash and the rest in crude oil, since last April.

In Amman, government officials told Reuters this week Jordan was seeking two kinds of aid over the next four years while it

implemented an economic reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

One was direct grants and the other interest-free deposits. Jordan would place the deposits, which it hoped would reach \$500 million to \$1 billion, with banks and use the interest to boost its foreign exchange.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have been singled out as Arab countries on which Jordan could pin high hopes to get regular aid and form the deposit.

Kuwait was one of several Arab countries that pledged to give Jordan \$1.25 billion a year for 10 years. But the 1978 pact ended last year with actual contributions falling short of that.

Dinar steady

The Jordanian currency remained firm against the dollar on the free market Tuesday, two days after the Central Bank pumped in more than \$2 million to help stabilise it, dealers said.

They said the dinar was trading at 818 fils to the dollar, unchanged since Sunday, but up from Saturday's widely quoted rate of 880 fils.

The Central Bank fixed the official rate at 583, unchanged from Saturday.



HM King Hussein



Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah

Israeli army says infiltrator killed

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli army said Tuesday its forces had shot dead an assailant who crossed the demarcation line with Jordan and briefly held two hostages, including an Israeli soldier.

In Amman, a military spokesman said a Jordanian conscript Faried Ali Mustapha, had gone missing Tuesday morning and was believed to have crossed into the Israeli-occupied territory he said.

The Israeli army said the attack occurred at 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), when the infiltrator opened fire near a collective farm, 20 kilometres north of Eilat and less than one kilometre from the ceasefire line.

Sharif Zaid is now visiting

Kuwait to discuss possible assistance or participation in

Amman's financial plans.

region this morning and after search operations, it was found that the conscript was missing," the unidentified spokesman said.

"We believe that he crossed the ceasefire line into the Israeli-occupied territories," he said.

The Israeli army said the attack ended at 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), when the infiltrator opened fire near a collective farm, 20 kilometres north of Eilat and less than one kilometre from the ceasefire line.

The soldier wounded an American volunteer at the farm.

"Mustapha was absent from his observation post at the southern

frontline," the spokesman said.

The soldier wounded an Amer-

ican volunteer at the farm.

Jordan received \$70m Arab aid

By Rama Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan received \$40 million in aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and another \$30 million from Dubai, a senior Jordanian official said Tuesday.

He said the aid from Abu Dhabi was received Monday, several weeks after Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shakher visited the UAE, and from Dubai three weeks ago but gave no further details.

The UAE was among several Arab countries who pledged to give Jordan \$1.25 billion a year for ten years. The 10-year pact ended in 1988 and actual donations fell short of that.

"We believe that he crossed the ceasefire line into the Israeli-occupied territories," he said.

The Israeli army said the attack occurred at 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), when the infiltrator opened fire near a collective farm, 20 kilometres north of Eilat and less than one kilometre from the ceasefire line.

Sharif Zaid is now visiting

Kuwait to discuss possible

assistance or participation in

Amman's financial plans.

King Hussein said his speech.

He warned Iran against making

miscalculations. Failure to sign a

peace agreement would expose

all states in the region to the

worst probabilities, he said.

The Iraqi president called for an immediate settlement of the prisoner of war (PoW) problem.

The fate of over 100,000 Iraqi and

Iranian PoWs is yet to be re-

solved.

"The ceasefire alone is not the

sole fortress for peace...." he said

in a nationwide radio and televi-

sion broadcast to mark the

annunciation by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de

Cuevas of the ceasefire agree-

ment Aug. 8, 1988.

"Only a comprehensive, com-

plete and clear peace agreement,

comprising all legitimate rights

and duties (of both states) is what

we strive to achieve," he added.

The speech, read on Hussein's

behalf, said: "Our desire for

peace was confirmed through all

our intentions over the past nine

years, but Iran's rulers, in their

deeds and probably intentions as

well, (are) far away from peace."

Tuesday was an official holiday

for Iraqis. On Monday night,

thousands of people poured into

a central Baghdad park for a

firework display and traditional

singing and dancing in an

anniversary celebration.

Crowds of teenagers, some

wearing traditional Arab robes,

waved flags and portraits of Hus-

sein labelled "the maker of peace

and victory."

The congress called on the Un-

ited States, which opened a dia-

logue with the PLO last Decem-

ber, to recognise the Palestinian

right to self-determination and an

independent state, cut back its

support for Israel, agree to an

international Middle East peace

conference and repeat all laws

hostile to the PLO.

The congress is already running

one day late and delegates said it

might have to continue into

Wednesday.

It has not yet started elections

for the Central Committee and the

106-member Revolutionary

Council, which acts as a smaller

version of the congress and meets

more regularly.

USSR, USSR agree to resume grain talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to resume efforts in December to negotiate a new long-term grain agreement, agriculture and trade officials have announced.

"A new long-term agreement will help stabilise our trading relationship and hopefully serve as a mechanism for additional sales," Agriculture Secretary Clayton K. Yeutter said in remarks prepared for delivery to a meeting of the U.S. Feed

Grains Council in Chicago. Negotiations were unsuccessful last

year in attempting to fashion a new agreement and the five-year

measure that had been scheduled to end Sept. 30 was extended

until Dec. 31, 1990. Resumed efforts to reach an agreement had been expected. Under the current agreement, the Soviet

Union has agreed to buy at least 4 million metric tonnes each of

U.S. wheat and corn annually and make additional purchases

totaling at least 1 million metric tonnes of wheat, corn, soybeans

or soybean meal or any combination of those commodities.

Columbia in space on super-secret mission

CAPE CANAVERAL (Agencies) — Columbia, the United States' oldest shuttle, returned to space for the first time in 3½ years Tuesday, rocketing into orbit with five military astronauts on a secret mission to a spy satellite aloft.

The 125-ton winged spaceship blazed away from its seafire launch pad at 8:37 a.m. (1237 GMT) after a mostly blacked-out countdown and darted northeastward. The exact launch time was not made public until nine minutes before liftoff, when the Defence Department lifted the blackout.

"We're tracking it right down the middle of the pike," the

flight guidance officer said about four minutes into the flight.

Nearly nine minutes after liftoff, the U.S. space agency announced that Columbia was in orbit more than 160

kilometres above the Earth, streaking along at more than 28,000

kilometres an hour.

"We have a completely clean

and smooth ascent from mis-

sion control. Columbia is very

clean," a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spokesman said at the mission control centre in Houston.

Due to the strict secrecy of

the Defence Department mis-

sion, Space Agency officials

were prohibited from revealing

details of the flight, even those

as small as what the five astro-

nauts would be eating.

It was believed the launch

was delayed for more than half

an hour while mission directors

waited for a light mist to burn

off and increase visibility at the

shuttle's emergency landing site at the Kennedy Space Centre.

Columbia's two powerful

solid-fuel booster rockets

whose failure caused the 1986

Challenger disaster — separated from the shuttle on schedule two minutes and nine

seconds after launch.

The spaceplane, the first ever

to fly in space more than once,

reached orbit about six minutes

later.

"Closed" road agreement signed

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt Tuesday signed an agreement to establish a "closed" land link to transport passengers between Baghdad and Cairo. The agreement provides for using one vehicle for an average of a single trip between Baghdad and Cairo in both directions along the line

Fateh adopts broad political strategy

TUNIS (R) — Following are extracts from the political programme adopted by the general congress of Fateh in Tunis (unofficial Reuter translation from the official Arabic text):

"The congress... defines its future goals as follows:

On the Palestinian front:

1. The question of Palestine is the core of the Arab-Zionist struggle.

2. Decisive commitment to the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian Arab people in its homeland Palestine, including its right to return, to determine its fate without outside interference and to set up its independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

3. Affirmation of the unity of the Palestinian Arab people inside and outside Palestine and that the PLO brings them together as the leader of their struggle and their sole legitimate representative.

4. The Congress... affirms the historic importance of the decisions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council (in Algiers in November 1988), especially the proclamation of independence, and... gives the Central Committee of the movement a mandate to work on all levels to pursue these decisions into practice.

5. Continuing to intensify and escalate armed action and all forms of struggle to eliminate the Zionist Israeli occupation of our occupied Palestinian land and ensure the right of our people to freedom and independence.

6. Escalation of the popular uprising which aims to end the Zionist Israeli occupation.

7. Rejection of and resistance to the autonomy plan and other plans designed to legitimise the Zionist settler occupation.

8. The Fateh congress rejects the Sharm plan for elections and affirms that any elections inside our occupied land must take place in a free and democratic atmosphere under international supervision after the withdrawal of Israeli forces and that the elections must be part of an integral programme for a final settlement.

10. ... Affirms the right of the PLO to take part independently and on an equal footing with

other parties in all conferences and international efforts on the question of Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

12. To continue dialogue with Israeli democratic forces which rejects the occupation and supports the inalienable national rights of our people... and recognise the PLO.

On the Arab front:

2. Call on the Arab states to adhere and carry out all (Arab summit) resolutions and especially to fulfil the financial obligations they assumed.

4. To respect the right of the Palestinian revolution to perform its tasks across any Arab land.

6. Call on the Arab states, and especially the confrontation states, to unite their forces and mobilise their masses to confront Israeli aggression.

On the international front:

1. Commitment to an effective international conference with full powers for peace in the middle east, to convene on the basis of international legitimacy under the supervision and auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and the parties concerned, including the PLO on an equal footing and with the same rights as the other parties.

2. The congress affirms... the right of all oppressed peoples under occupation to use all forms of struggle for their liberation and national independence.

3. The congress calls on the United States to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to determine its fate and set up its independent state, to abandon its policy of bias in favour of Israel, stop the unlimited support which it gives to it... The congress calls on the United States to agree to convene the international Middle East peace conference as soon as possible... The congress similarly asks the United States to repeal all the laws and legislation hostile to the PLO which the U.S. Congress has passed so its dialogue with us can reach positive results.

Hekmatyar criticises Iran over Soviet ties

ISLAMABAD (R) — A radical Afghan rebel group denounced Iran Tuesday for its rapprochement with the Soviet Union, saying Tehran was now opposing Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

A statement from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami said it was surprised and dismayed by the new position taken by Iran, a rebel supporter throughout the 11-year-old civil war.

A statement from Gulbuddin

Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami party said it was surprised and dismayed by the new position taken by Iran, a rebel supporter throughout the 11-year-old civil war.

"We expected that Muslim countries would not extend the hand of friendship to those who are the murderers of about 1.5 million Afghans."

"It is sad that a government that claims to be the Islamic revolutionary government is opposing Islamic revolution in Afghanistan," said the statement, issued in Pakistan.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Monday that Iran had now adopted a "wholly positive attitude" to the Afghan conflict and praised its "realism."

He visited Tehran last week for talks with Iran's new president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Afterwards both men noted their positions on Afghanistan had grown closer.

Mujahedeen guerrillas operate mainly out of Pakistan, whose government has given them political support and freedom of movement and funnelled Western and other arms to them.

Some groups, such as Hezb-i-Islami's biggest rival, Jamiat-i-Islami, have also had bases and supply routes through Iran and have tried hard to remain on good terms with Tehran.

The seven Pakistan-based parties are all Sunni Muslim. Iran has concentrated its support on fellow Shi'i Muslims from central Afghanistan, a minority which has kept aloof from the rebel government-in-exile in Pakistan.

Hezb-i-Islami, a tightly-disciplined party seeking to install its own brand of modern Islamic society, has long had difficulties with Tehran. The Iranian government closed its offices there six years ago.

Hezb-i-Islami said Iran had supported a ceasefire without any change in the political situation, instead of demanding that Moscow halt arms supplies to President Najibullah's government.

"This is really disheartening for the Mujahedeen," it said.

It added that it hoped Iran would review its Afghan policy and either stop befriending the Soviet Union or make this friendship dependent on an end to what it called Soviet interference in Afghanistan.

Rocket barrage

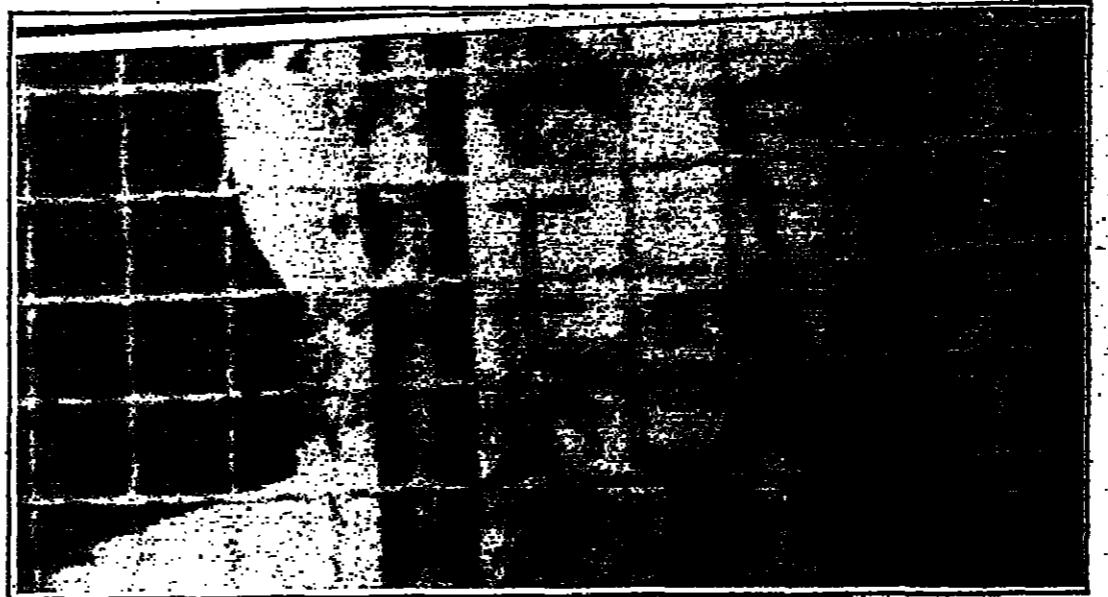
An intense rebel rocket barrage hit Kabul Monday, killing at least eight people and plunging the city in to a state of fear.

More than 40 surface-to-surface missiles cut a swath across the capital, setting fire to a vegetable market and the city's only luxury hotel, and hitting homes and streets where children were playing. One rocket landed in the Soviet embassy compound, damaging some buildings, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported from Moscow. It said nothing about casualties.

The Afghan news agency Bakhtar said 37 rockets killed eight people and injured 19, and missiles were still falling after the agency report. Hospitals said 10 people were killed and at least 25 wounded, including a 10-year-old boy who lost both legs and a six-month-old boy whose chest was crushed.

It is hard to close the border to the heroin smugglers. A small amount is easy to hide, and is worth a lot in Israel," Peled said.

He said the going street-price



THEOLOGIAN ON TRIAL: Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind Egyptian theologian who went on trial on subversion charges in Cairo earlier this week looks out of his court room cell.

Bashir assures U.S. of desire to end civil war

KHARTOUM (Agencies) —

Sudanese military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has assured the United States that his government was keen to find a comprehensive settlement to the six-year civil war in the south.

State television said Bashir also explained to visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen Monday why he led the June 30 coup that toppled Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's three-year civilian government.

"A democracy that does not feed the people does not deserve to exist," Bashir was quoted as telling Cohen, whose visit was the first high-level contact between Khartoum and Washington since the coup.

Speaking to reporters after their meeting, Bashir said Cohen told him that it was evident to the U.S. government that Mahdi had been unable to solve the country's problems.

The Sudanese leader also quoted Cohen as saying Mahdi's government had used food as a weapon in the war against the southern rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

State television quoted Bashir as saying his government would use dialogue as the sole means to end the war in the south against

the SPLA, fighting to end what it sees as domination of the area by the north.

Since seizing power Bashir has pledged to find a quick and lasting peace in the south, but peace talks with the SPLA which were due to start in Addis Ababa earlier this month were not held.

Neither side gave a reason for the delay and no new date has been set.

Cohen arrived Sunday and met Foreign Minister Ali Sahloul and Finance Minister Sayed Al Zaki Monday as well as Bashir.

The United States is among Sudan's major foreign economic supporters and the largest contributor to relief operations for the famine-hit south of the country.

Sudan, however, has fallen into arrears on debt repayments to America, which in turn has limited its humanitarian aid.

Trade unions' appeal

Eight Sudanese trade unions have appealed to the new military government to lift a ban it imposed on their activities when it came to power June 30.

The trade unions made their appeal in a memorandum delivered to the government last week. A copy of the memorandum

dated July 31, was made available to the AP Monday.

The memorandum made it clear that the trade unions reject the government ban and vowed not to accept any government plan for formation of new trade unions.

"We reject the dissolution of trade unions movements and undermining of their legitimacy brought about by democratic elections," the memorandum said.

The appeal underlined "the strong commitment" of the trade unions to "the confidence of the people who elected us democratically."

"We call for lifting the guard from the headquarters of the trade unions and for allowing the trade unions to perform their activities and serve the interest of their members," the appeal said.

It said representatives of the trade unions should supervise any future elections in the country.

Bashir has said that his government plans to work out a new law to reacitve the trade unions. He said the banned trade unions had been politicised by previous regimes and that the new law would limit its activities to serving the interests of its members.

Heroin on the rise in Israel

By Jim Ron
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Israel's border with Lebanon may be one of

the most highly guarded in the world, but heroin smugglers are succeeding where guerrillas usually fail.

Police on Monday netted 7 kgs of heroin in the occupied Gaza Strip, a spokesman said.

Last Thursday, a record heroin bust of 21 kgs was made throughout the country in a 19-hour operation, deputy inspector Sandor Mazor of the criminal investigation department said.

"Unless an overall, massive effort is made, we will ultimately be facing a drug-abuse problem as bad as that of the United States and Europe," warned deputy inspector Rafi Peled, head of Israel's criminal intelligence division.

Israel is in a bad geo-narcotic situation. Heroin can be bought relatively cheaply on the Lebanese border. A dealer can buy a kilo for \$8,000, while a European dealer must buy the same merchandise for up to \$30,000," Peled said.

In the last two years, resistance fighters have made 31 attempts to penetrate Israel's northern belt. Only two have succeeded, army officials said.

But Lebanese drug runners have managed to smuggle increasing amounts of heroin into the country through that same barrier.

"It is hard to close the border to the heroin smugglers. A small amount is easy to hide, and is worth a lot in Israel," Peled said.

He said the going street-price

of a kilo of heroin in Israel is approximately \$75,000.

Until 1978, drug usage in Israel was confined to the milder hashish, traditionally smuggled from Lebanon, Peled said.

But in 1982, Lebanese dealers began to produce heroin and Israeli drug dealers began to distribute it, he said.

The contact was made easier after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Israel pulled out the bulk of its troops in 1985 but also carved out a "security belt" patrolled by its soldiers and allied Lebanese militiamen.

"There are no accurate figures on the number of drug-users in Israel. But the supply coming in from Lebanon has risen sharply in recent years, and the demand must be rising as well," Peled said.

Social workers working with disadvantaged youths report that 50-70 per cent of their charges have used drugs, while prison officials say that 80 per cent of the prisoners use narcotics.

Some criminologists such as Yael Hassin of Hebrew University dispute the figures.

"There are 5,000 drug addicts receiving treatment in Israel," she said. "Other than that, there are no accurate figures on drug use," she claimed.

Hassin said the publicity recently afforded the Israeli drug problem was an attempt to create "moral panic" by politicians looking for attention and police officials looking for bigger budgets.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Two U.N. soldiers die in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two U.N. peacekeepers died Monday and four were wounded when an armoured personnel carrier they were patrolling is overturned, a U.N. official said. U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said the accident occurred as the soldiers, from a Nepalese battalion in the peacekeeping force, were on patrol near their headquarters in the western sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The four wounded soldiers were evacuated to a U.N. hospital in Naqoura, where they are reportedly in good condition. The 5,800-strong, multi-national U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is headquartered in Naqoura in South Lebanon. The two deaths raised the number of peacekeepers killed in Lebanon to 265.

Iran allocates \$28m for addict camps

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has allocated \$28 million to finance a network of labour camps to hold drug addicts, a senior official said Monday. Tehran Radio quoted Mohsen Kalantari, deputy commander of Iran's anti-drug headquarters, as saying 55,000 addicts would be detained in the camps at any one time. The radio said Sunday that 18,400 addicts had been rounded up since July 23 when addiction became an offence under a tough anti-narcotics law enacted in January. Iran has executed at least 772 people on drug charges this year. Judicial officials have pledged to continue the crackdown as long as necessary to save the country's estimated one million addicts. Kalantari said roads and border posts were built along Iran's eastern border with Afghanistan and Pakistan to block the flow of narcotics into the country. But he said signs of up to 20 kilometres between border posts had to be filled by barbed wire, mines, minefields or additional outposts.

Cyprus to expel Lebanese as illegal aliens

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — Eleven Lebanese who tried to flee from their war-torn country to Cyprus in a small boat are to be expelled as illegal immigrants, police said Monday. A police launch escorted the boat, which was discovered sailing without lights about a kilometre from the coast, to the port of Limassol after it failed to contact the authorities. Three of the men identified themselves as crew. The others, who had clothes and hard currency with them, said they wanted to use Cyprus as a transit point in their flight. Police said the Lebanese, who had been in custody since Sunday, would probably be put back on their boat and expelled. Thousands of Lebanese have fled via Cyprus since fierce artillery battles began in mid-March.

'Asia's tallest man' dies

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian actor described as the tallest man in Asia died of a heart attack while shooting a scene in a marketplace in central Tehran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. Quoting Kayhan newspaper, the agency said Mahmoud Lotfi, 235 centimetres tall, collapsed before the cameras and died on the way to hospital. He was 64. Lotfi became famous for playing a half-wit butcher in a popular Iranian television serial in the late 1970s. He weighed 125 kg. Kayhan said a thyroid gland malfunction made him the tallest man in Asia. The 1989 Guinness Book of Records lists Mozambique's Gabriel Estevao Monjane, 45, as the world's tallest living man at 245.7 centimetres. It does not list a record-holder for Asia.

Iraq opens satellite station

BAGHDAD (R) — Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Hanifa Al Zubaidi Monday opened Iraq's first satellite communications ground station. The Iraqi News Agency said the 4.7 million dinar (\$15 million) station could carry 38 telephone channels, 24 telegraphic channels and two television channels. Hanifa said it will enable Iraq to bypass a Jordanian ground station and receive directly from Arabsat, the Arab telecommunications satellite launched in 1985.

Cheney meets Egyptian counterpart

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met for the first time Monday with Egyptian Defence Minister Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb and said afterwards that they had established "a sound working relationship." Cheney, who took over the U.S. Defence Department earlier this spring, pledged to meet regularly and work closely with his Egyptian counterpart, who was named to his post in April. The Defence Department chief added that he intends to visit Egypt early next year. "I believe we've established a sound working relationship as well as a close personal friendship," Cheney said in remarks to reporters. It is well known that Egypt has long been an influential voice for moderation in the Middle East and an advocate for a just and lasting peace in the region. A militarily strong, politically stable Egypt is critical to our efforts in the search for this elusive peace," Cheney said. The main purpose of Abu Taleb's visit to the United States, the first since he was appointed defence minister, was to get acquainted with key Bush administration officials. Abu Taleb said the talks were conducted "in a spirit of cooperation and commitment. It has reassured me that we are both dedicated to keeping our relationship strong and thriving."

Kuwait hangs Indian for killing

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait hanged an Indian Monday for killing a bus driver and a ticket collector in a dispute over a 150 fils fare, the Kuwait Times said. Francisco Aranjo, 37, while on bus in February, 1988, paid for two fares but felt he had been cheated over his change, the newspaper said. He argued with the ticket collector who punched Aranjo in the nose. After he and his friend got off, Aranjo went back to the bus stop by himself and waited for the bus to return. He killed the ticket collector and then stabbed the bus driver when he tried to intervene. Aranjo, who pleaded guilty to murder, was hanged in the central prison, the newspaper said.

ARRIVALS

Khayyat, WIC officials discuss aid for Palestine

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Means of protecting holy places in Palestine and providing assistance to needy families in the occupied territories were discussed here Tuesday by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and members of the World Islamic Council (WIC).

Discussion also covered launching investment and production projects benefiting these families, according to a statement Tuesday.

It said that the minister stressed the need to provide assistance

to the oppressed people of the occupied Arab lands for the sake of bolstering their steadfastness and foiling Zionist conspiracies designed to obliterate Islamic culture and evacuate Arab people from their homes.

Dr. Khayyat also reviewed with the WIC members — who have just concluded a meeting in Amman — a number of charitable and Awqaf projects in the Kingdom to be implemented through the Zakat Fund which is operated by the ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

It said that the minister stressed the need to provide assistance

Work begins on new hospital in Karak

KARAK (J.T.) — Work on the infrastructure of a new hospital for Karak, in southern Jordan, is expected to be completed in the coming few months, after which work on the first phase of a modern hospital will start, National Medical Institution (NMI) Director General Daoud Hananah announced here Tuesday.

He said that the infrastructure is being laid by a local construction firm at the cost of JD 500,000, but the hospital project itself will be set up by the Italian government at the cost of \$7 million.

Hananah made the statement at a ceremony for inaugurating the new annex to the existing hospital in Karak which includes outpatient clinics. Hananah inspected different parts of the annex and was briefed on services to the public.

ACC ministers agree to regulate labour

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have agreed on a set of measures to regulate the employment and transportation of workers within the ACC group and set up committees to unify laws governing labour related affairs.

The announcement was made by Labour Minister Jamal Bdour upon his return here from Baghdad where he took part in a meeting to discuss labour affairs concerning Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

Bdour noted that the meeting also dealt with the unification of laws on social security for workers, training labourers, vocational training programmes and the establishment of a data bank for the Arab labour markets in the four ACC states.

The meeting was in harmony with a general strategy drawn up by the heads of the four countries at their latest summit meeting in Alexandria, the minister said.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CULTURAL FESTIVAL: On the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to throne, a public library project will be opened and a cultural festival will be held at the township of Eder in the Karak Governorate. The festival includes an exhibition of historical documents entitled "the King, the Leader," a national book exhibition, a children's book exhibition, and studies related to children and their drawings. The festival also includes educational films. (Petra)

CROWN PRINCE CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday delegated the Irbid Governorate police director to convey his condolences to Al Sharideh family on the death of former Parliament member Hamzeh Al Sharideh. Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker also delegated the Irbid Governorate police assistant director to convey his condolences. (Petra)

MAJALI RECEIVES U.S. ENVOYS: Minister of Culture and Information Nasrou Al Majali Tuesday received U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roscoe Suddarth and the new Director of U.S. Information Service, Johnathan Owens. (Petra)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION: The First National Exhibition for Science and Technology was opened Tuesday at the Professional Association Complex. The exhibition includes a number of inventions and scientific achievements by Jordanian youth, in addition to a collection of specialised scientific and technological books. The week-long exhibition is designed to acquaint the public with the creative capabilities of Jordanian youth.

INCREASE IN POWER GENERATION: The electric power generated and consumed in Jordan during the first quarter of this year witnessed a respective increase of 7.7 per cent and 9.1 per cent over the same period last year. (Petra)

CENTRE TREATS 239 FOR SPEECH, HEARING: The National Speech and Hearing Centre in Amman presented specialised medical care to a total of 239 cases in July. These cases included 103 cases in hearing and 136 cases in speech. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON CARDIAC DISEASE: Jordan will take part in an international conference on cardiac diseases which will be held in Toronto, Canada on Sept. 4, according to Dr. Zakaria Daoud from the Jordan University Hospital. Daoud said that the six-day conference will discuss two working papers to be submitted by the University of Jordan dealing with heart diseases and treatment, and the effects of smoking and other social habits on heart ailments.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rabah Sughayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- * A photo exhibition entitled "Bedouin Today" by Japanese photographer Koji Sato at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- * An Arabic play entitled "Thammar Thalib" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Ajloun area villages move towards development

Away from the hubbub and bustle of the busy, fashionable, modern life in the capital city, there are dozens of villages strewn around the Kingdom. For some of them electricity, radio and television are a novelty; for others it is a matter of water and basic amenities. While the authorities do know that there are problems, the major task is to identify them on a case-by-case basis and seek solutions. Her Majesty Queen Noor has taken the lead in identifying problems with first-hand information on these areas. *Sabah Olsabah* reports on a field visit the Queen made to some villages in the north Tuesday.

TRAVELLING to Ajloun, north of Amman, one is encountered with many tired faces, relentlessly beaten with the rough weather and hard living conditions.

Yet the inhabitants of Ajloun and the surrounding villages, like the mountains that characterise the area, stand firm in the face of hardships.

Though relatively distant, the villages of Waqqas, Khirbet Al

Wahidaneh, Rabadiyah and Smadiyah, are not completely isolated. In slow but steady steps, the government of Jordan continues its efforts to establish a solid infrastructure in that region.

In a recent wave of attention, "of the highest level," that swept the area, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Tuesday visited the villages and listened to the requests of the inhabitants.

Though considered as one of the most fertile lands in the Kingdom, the inhabitants are not able to fully benefit from their agricultural lands.

"We are not allowed to uproot the forest trees and plant olive and fruit trees instead," Ra'ed Wahdan, a farmer, said to the Jordan Times.

According to Wahdan, another obstacle facing the farmers is the lands law of 1985, which forbids the division of lands that are less than 10 dunums.

"It makes it impossible for farmers to cultivate their lands freely," another farmer said.

Fawaz Smadi, a father of 14, owns a land that he has not been able to cultivate for 25 years. "Regrettably, I had to resort to

another means of living, so I opened a small grocery shop. My monthly income does not, in the best of cases, exceed JD 60, which is hardly enough to feed my large family," he said.

Even when the farmers want to plant their lands, they are faced with the problem of inaccessibility, even by foot. "There is an urgent need to open farm roads to lead to these lands, to make it possible for us to transport the products to the neighbouring villages," Smadi said.

Figs are found in great numbers in that area, and the damage they do to the farms is great.

"These animals eat everything, and we are forced to stand helplessly as they venture into our farms and eat our fruits and vegetables. We ask that the prices of wire fences be reduced, so that we would be able to properly protect our land," a distressed farmer said.

Choosing animal husbandry as an occupation, is not that easy either. With 10,000 heads of cattle, the area lacks the sufficient pastures to meet the needs of this great number. "This is coupled with the fact that grain and fodder are very expensive," Wahdan said.

Expenses never come to an end in such a place. Due to the random distribution of houses, the villages suffer the lack of a school and the children have to travel to Ajloun every morning. "Transportation is very inconvenient and even much worse in winter," one of the children complained.

To top it all, the villages are not yet provided with electricity supply, despite the fact that high voltage lines are very close to the area.

"We are still using lanterns, which makes it uncomfortable to study at night," one of the female students said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visits villages in the Ajloun area. (Petra photo)

the prices of grains by 40-50 per cent.

It was also announced that the Minister of Education, Abdulla Nsour, has instructed the rental of a building to function as an elementary school all the way to the fourth grade, until a new school is built.

The fruitful visit also led to the agreement of the Ministry of Health to send a doctor to the villages on a periodic basis.

The doctor is to give immunisations, perform check-ups and convey medical awareness.

The area is also to be provided with a post office, complete with a telephone.

At the end of the visit, King Hussein highlighted the fact that there is a need to promote the area on the touristic level, as the area is considered one of the most beautiful parts of the Kingdom with its archaeological sites and green landscapes.

University of Jordan receives ARAMCO donation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi ARAMCO) has made a donation of \$50,000 to the University of Jordan to help it carry out with its educational programmes. A cheque for the sum was delivered by ARAMCO

representative in Amman Jassim Al Sarazeen to the University President Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra at the latter's office Tuesday. Samra thanked the company for its contribution which he said will promote culture and education for Arab students.

Jordan allows reopening of Palestine fund HQ in Amman

By Rama Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has agreed to allow the headquarters of the Palestine National Fund (PNF), the PLO's financial arm, to reopen in Amman after a three-year ban, its chairman said Tuesday.

Jaweed Al Ghusein said the headquarters will be officially inaugurated by the end of next week when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat visits Amman for talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

"The reopening of the PNF headquarters in Amman will reflect positively on our people inside the Israeli-occupied territories," Ghusein told Reuters in a telephone interview from Abu Dhabi, where he is staying. He did not elaborate.

Jordan closed 25 offices of the mainstream Palestinian commando group Fatah led by Arafat, and the PNF, the PLO's ministry of finance, on July 19, 1986 after Fatah criticised Jordan's Middle East policy.

The move did not apply to the other 12 offices of the PLO in Amman.

But the PNF maintained its office and continued to work under the umbrella of the Amman-based Palestine National Council (PNC) — the Palesti-

nian parliament-in-exile — and had two other offices, one in Tunis and the other in Cairo.

It moved to Amman from Beirut in 1982 following Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Arab diplomats said the decision to reopen the headquarters at the request of His Majesty King Hussein, was a further step towards strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian ties following Amman's July 1988 break with the West Bank, united with Jordan since 1950.

"It will have a psychological effect on the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied territories who will feel more secure in having the Finance Ministry close to them," one diplomat said.

With Jordan's separation from the occupied territories, Amman ended years of mutual suspicion with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

King Hussein said last month Jordanian-Palestinian ties were never as good as now.

The PLO took its cue from the disengagement to launch peace moves aimed at making political gains from the sacrifices of a 19-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

Ghusein condemned what he called the arbitrary position

of the Israeli occupation authorities towards Palestinians.

"The starvation campaign against our people and the Israeli authorities' imposition of taxes and customs especially on food-stuffs and basic commodities is very dangerous," he said.

At least 580 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising.

The PNF, the central body that controls the finances of the PLO inside and outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, had a budget of \$74 million from June 1988 to June 1989.

Fund officials hope the PNF will be able to spend more money than in 1988 as a number of Arab countries have committed themselves to regular monthly payments as of January 1989.

Saudi Arabia is paying \$6 million, the United Arab Emirates \$3 million, Kuwait \$2 million, Iraq \$4.2 million, while Libya has pledged to offer direct aid to Palestinian hospitals, schools and universities.

Other Arab and foreign countries, international agencies and Muslim funds have given direct assistance to Palestinians worth \$170 million since the uprising began in December 1987, fund officials added.

The new decision will allow

more than 11,000 students, up from nearly 9,000 to enrol for different specialisations at the public university.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ministries of Education and Agriculture are planning to involve thousands of school children in the process of greening the country; and programs have already been set for the coming tree planting season, according to officials at the two ministries.

They said at least 200,000 male and female students in different provinces will be involved in the process which entails planting two million trees.

The estimated JD 104,620 project is expected to be covered from school budgets, and most of the money will be spent on trans-

porting students to tree planting sites, according to the officials.

According to the programme, 415 kilometres long desert highways will be lined with trees. Trees will also be planted around 2,500 schools and hilly areas; and the coming month will witness the commencement of preparations for the tree-planting operation.

All the two million trees will have been planted by Dec. 21 at the start of the rainy season in Jordan.

The officials said that the two million tree will be planted by His Majesty King Hussein during the annual Arbor Day celebration.

57 community colleges to admit students with 50 per cent grades

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 57 community colleges will admit students with a 50 per cent and above grades next month instead of 55 per cent, according to a decision taken by the Council of Higher Education.

The decision which was announced by Minister of Higher Education Nasereddin Al Assad reverses an earlier decision stipulating that students with 55 per cent average and above can only be admitted to the colleges.

The new decision will allow more than 11,000 students, up from nearly 9,000 to enrol for different specialisations at the public university.

The total number of those who secured the minimum grade of 65

per cent in the final examination was 17,926, the minister said.

The Council of Higher Education, which earlier gave its consent for the establishment of two private universities to cope with the growing demand on university education in Jordan, is due to hold a meeting Saturday to discuss details of regulations for the two projected institutions.

One of the two universities will be established in Balqa region while the other, to be named University of Applied Sciences, will be established in the Irbid area.

Conference to promote region's social, economic development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is planning a regional conference entitled "safeguarding the future" which will be held in Amman between Oct. 2 and 4 in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), according to an announcement here Tuesday.

Representatives from Ministries of Health, Planning and Social Development in Arab countries as well as the media will be taking part in the conference which will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to the conference chairman Janet Al Mufif Dakhaqan.

Mrs. Dakhaqan told the Jordan Times that the coming conference, the first of its kind to be held in the Arab World, will be conducted through the help of a preparatory committee chaired by herself.

The committee has set up three sub-committees for information,

protocol and public relations as well as tourism, each of which will prepare a working plan to be referred to the preparatory committee that has scheduled a meeting for Aug. 29.

The announcement quoted the UNFPA representative in Amman Darwas Al Khlasa as saying that the convening of the coming conference will be part of the fund's 20th anniversary celebrations here.

The coming conference will review three main working papers dealing with population distribution and migration, their interrelation with the environment and women and development, Al Khlasa said.

The preparatory committee, the announcement said, groups representatives from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Social Development, Planning, Information, Tourism and the General Federation of Jordanian Women, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the University of Jordan, the National Population Committee and the Greater Amman Municipality.

The prepar

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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On the right track

FORTUNATELY the Jordanian dinar has been firming against a basket of hard currencies of late as a result of a string of effective measures taken by the Central Bank of Jordan and amid persistent reports that Arab financial aid has already resumed. All these positive economic and financial news will surely bolster even further Amman's determination to recover from its recent economic and fiscal woes. One can also be sure that the initial good news already achieved will snowball into even more confidence building developments.

Still the onus of responsibility to help Jordan help itself falls on the people of Jordan who clearly have the biggest stake in accelerating the recovery process of their country. There are many ways available to Jordanians to perform their solemn duties in this regard. To begin with they can soften their seemingly insatiable lust for hard currencies for no apparent need except to serve as a hedge against the devaluation of their primary currency, the Jordanian dinar. By decreasing the demand on foreign currencies, the dinar stands to register gains against such currencies. Thus Jordanians can achieve their primary objective of restoring to their national currency its rightful value by arresting the hysterical demand for hard currencies.

Also by rationalising their spending habits whether traditional or contemporary, the people would help a great deal their government and country cope with the economic and fiscal difficulties. Many of these habits are deep-rooted and touch on the traditional Arab sense of generosity. Others have grown over the years especially during and in the wake of the golden era in the late seventies and early eighties. While it will take time to affect readjustments in such spending customs, a beginning must be made now. There are growing signs that Jordanians have already begun this process of readjustment due to sheer economic constraints on their budgets. In this vein, the impending decision to establish a consumer protection society is most welcome news. Such a society is very much in demand to compliment the public interest in rationalising their expenditures by protecting them from abuse and exploitation. It is therefore comforting to note that preparatory work for the establishment and registering such a public service organ has been virtually completed.

All in all, the emerging picture in Jordan is most encouraging. The economy in the country is moving ahead once again with vigour and the financial picture is also improving at comfortable speed. Fortunately, all these developments are beginning to take place with the cooperation and understanding of the public.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Tuesday dwelt on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question in the light of King Hussein's meeting with U.S. envoy John Kelly. Al Ra'i daily said that the King has reaffirmed Jordan's stands and principles with regard to the problem and demanded that a just and permanent solution be found to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The paper said that the PLO is now in charge of the Palestinian people and their destiny; and since the organisation has pledged to work for peace, the United States should help carry out U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which guarantee Palestinian people's rights in their land. Washington ought to shoulder its responsibility towards peace and should find a way of ending Israel's intransigence and remove obstacles in the path of peace, the paper added. We are confident that what John Kelly heard in Amman was identical to Egyptian views which back the PLO's position, the paper noted. It said that it is clear for the United States that Israel refuses to pull out its forces from the Arab lands occupied since 1967 and this is the chronic problem that impedes a peace formula.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the question of Jordanian students who are about to go to Egypt for higher education. Salah Abdin Samad says that many of our students join others in their studies at Egyptian universities and these should be allowed to pay their fees in Jordanian currency in the light of the present difficulties to obtain foreign exchange. The writer urges the Jordanian government to approach the Egyptian authorities to help our students to pay in Egyptian pounds which are easier to come by these days. As long as Jordan and Egypt are members of the Arab Cooperation Council and continue to work for the same goals and objectives, it is only natural to try to seek help for Jordanian students in this regard and it is only natural for Egypt and Jordan to show a greater measure of cooperation towards serving their own people, the writer adds. We also hope, continues the writer, that the general secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council which is based in Amman will take the initiative and settle this issue without awaiting any formal protocol in this matter.

Sawt Al Shaab daily newspaper said that with the conclusion of John Kelly's tour of the Middle East it is hoped that the U.S. administration has accumulated sufficient information about the situation in the area and is in a position to take action. The daily said that the envoy has heard from King Hussein Jordan's views; and a reiteration by Egypt and Jordan over the need to resolve the Palestine problem and to grant the Palestinians the right to self-determination. The paper also reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians and that the U.S. administration should recognise this fact, and realise that the organisation is assuming full responsibility for the future of the Palestinian people. Let us hope that Bush administration will now act with wisdom and with speed to put an end to the Israeli atrocities and help bring about peace.

ECOLIGHT

My neighbour, my joker

By Jawad Amani

AN OLD joke goes like this: A man, involved in a car accident was wrapped up in bandages from head to toe. Strapped to a hanger by the hand and foot, his visiting old friend asks: How do you feel? "Does it hurt?" The man answered: "Only when I laugh."

The Jerusalem Post, in its July 26, 1989 issue, published an article by David Rosenberg in which he contends that Jordan's domestic and foreign debts add up to \$15.5 billion. He goes on with the same strain to analyse Jordan's socio-political set-up. If ever there was an armchair off-the-cuff lazy analysis, Rosenberg will have the prize.

Before we analyse the situation in Jordan, which the Israelis have devoted lately a great deal of their attention to, let us look at the Israeli debt. According to their own and international statistics, in the years 1986-1988, Israel's foreign outstanding debt (excluding short-term liabilities) averaged \$25.8 billion. In December 1988, the Israeli foreign debt was \$25.1 billion. If we add to it domestic borrowing, we find that the 1988 figure jumps to \$45.6 billion. On average, this means an Israeli who is born today inherits an outstanding debt of approximately \$11,000, by far the biggest in the world. In contrast, a Brazilian owes \$800, and a Mexican \$1,100.

However, this large debt could have been much higher had it not been for the generous contribution made to Israel annually from official and private foreign sources. Israel received on average aid over the period 1986-1988 of \$4.9 billion annually. These exclude war reparations, free medication, easy access for export markets, facilities from international commercial banks, favourable treatment in the U.S. and other West European countries, technological accessibility that is denied to others, illegal exports, money laundering activities, arms sales, and favourable media coverage. All of these factors still did not help Israel from being the worst debtor in the world.

Despite all claims that the Israeli economy has recovered, it always demonstrated a high degree of vulnerability. In the mid-seventies and beyond, the Israeli economy went bananas. Heading to adjustment counsel by the famous Milton Friedman, hyper-inflation and unemployment frustrated the Israeli economy. Had it not been for the unlimited generous support of others, Israel would have been in a very deep mess. Israel's economic performance is indeed a showcase. All Israeli intelligence and study centres that devote so much time to the salvation of the Jewish state are making very slight difference to an economy that has survived by financing a war machine.

The Israeli commentators think that, by slandering the Jordanian economy their problems would disappear. It is no wonder they are engaged in such slandering with vehemence. If it hurts when they laugh, then let them hysterically do so. The debt of Jordan as is well-known does not exceed \$8.2 billion both domestic and foreign. That makes it on average 25 per cent of the burden of Israel as based on per capita shares.

The initiative has served as an example which demonstrated how fragile the Israeli economy can be. Denied the \$800 million net income accruing from the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli economy is showing signs of fatigue. Prices are going up. Between 1986 and April 1989, the consumer index increased by 150 per cent, discount interest rate is around 17 per cent, and real wages are declining. Historically speaking, wars became Israel's bread and butter. Now wars and expansion are very expensive and their cost-effectiveness is very low indeed. What would they do next in the face of mounting economic pressure? Their best bid is to try to destabilise the region in order to convince the superpowers that they can play a role for which they hope to cash on. The stability of Jordan implies a high opportunity cost to Israel. No wonder they are so keen to use the media in order to project their problems on Jordan.

After 20 years of strife, a glimmer of hope

ON Aug. 14, 1969, British troops deployed in Northern Ireland to quell a mass outbreak of communal violence. Twenty years and 2,740 deaths later, the violence continues and a political solution remains elusive. But much has changed in the British-ruled province, and some observers even see a glimmer of hope. Associated Press correspondent Marcus Eliason, who has covered the province for nearly five years, reports.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — All Mrs. Murphy's neighbours are gone.

The stonings and firebombings proved more than they could bear, so the authorities tore down the houses and sent the Catholics and Protestants off to live among their own.

Everybody left except Susan Murphy. She's a feisty woman, proud of the three-story row house she and her husband bought 33 years ago, when Roe Street was so peaceful that "every day was like Sunday."

Now the house stands alone in a no-man's land, its windows protected by steel mesh, with steel railings running the length of Roe Street and a tall corrugated wall separating the Murphys from their Protestant neighbours.

And all this happened not 20 years ago, when "the troubles" were at their worst, but in the late 1980s. The houses razed five months ago were not dilapidated hovels but brand-new showcases of a new Belfast rising from the Victorian slums.

"It's something of an indictment of society here," says Ivan Maginnis of the Housing Executive that had to take the decision. "It's an awful tragedy."

It's easy to conclude from this 600,000-pound (\$1-million) exercise in futility that little has changed in Northern Ireland since British troops arrived here on Aug. 14, 1969, to separate Protestants from their Catholic neighbours.

The death toll is over 2,740 and rising almost week by week. The Catholic unemployment rate is 2½ times that of Protestants. A political solution still looks far off.

Glimmer of hope

And yet one finds a glimmer of optimism in Northern Ireland today.

Violence has diminished from a peak of 467 killings in 1972 to an average of 80 a year in the 1980s.

Recent elections suggest a weakening of the hard-liners on either side of the divide, and a

shift out the extremists on both sides.

Dungannon, a town of 15,000 in the centre of the province, was once a bastion of Unionist supremacy and discrimination. Now its mixed council has a committee to promote cross-community understanding, and sends Protestant and Catholic children on holidays together.

The whole island, north and south, is in intellectual ferment over the prospect of a united Europe that will subsume old Nationalist rivalries.

"National sovereignty is changing its whole meaning in European terms. The nation state is disappearing. So the fundamental reason for the quarrel between Britain and Ireland is now gone," says John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the province's main Catholic Nationalist Party.

A backwater 20 years ago, Northern Ireland now has air links to European holiday resorts. A burgeoning Catholic middle class hunger for stability. A retail boom has transformed

the bomb-blackened city centres of Belfast and Londonderry.

Aidan O'Reilly's family was driven out of their home in 1973 by Protestant mobs. Married now with a baby son, O'Reilly owns a house in a quiet Belfast suburb. He is one of the thousands who look back on the bad old days and pray they never return.

Buying stability

By pouring some \$2.25 billion a year into the province, Britain can actually buy pockets of stability. Councillor Anthony McGonell, a 40-year-old schoolteacher, says Dungannon's new approach is helped along by the knowledge that "if a council is seen to be trying to work together, central government is much more sympathetic towards it."

Ralph Brown, a 52-year-old Unionist councillor whose appliances store on Dungannon's main street has been damaged 11 times by IRA bombs, strongly backs municipal power-sharing.

"A lot of trust has been built up," he says. "People are really bending over backward at the moment to try and ensure that nothing major goes wrong."

Paul Bew, a respected analyst at Queen's University, says Belfast was deeply pessimistic in the mid-1980s. Now he feels things are looking up.

"I am more modestly optimistic about some kind of accommodation in Ireland than I have been for a long, long time," he says.

Hume suggests a round-table conference of all the parties — Irish, British and Northern Irish — to define the problem, then solve it. Unionists prefer some sort of power-sharing arrangement with Catholics, provided the Irish government is not involved. That distance between the two positions is great, but at least the two sides are talking about solutions.

The trouble is that life is not improving in the blue-collar ghettos, where pockets of 80 per cent unemployment provide plenty of recruits for the Irish Republican army and Sinn Fein, its political backer in the campaign to rid Northern Ireland of British rule and and unite the island.

Sinn Fein's Francis McCann, a Belfast city councillor, says none of the prosperity of recent years

has reached his constituency.

garet Thatcher signed the Anglo-Irish agreement giving Dublin a say in the running of the province. Outraged Unionists, who regard Ireland as a hostile Catholic state, reacted violently.

But their protests were ignored, and they are finally beginning to talk about negotiating a solution.

Meanwhile, Catholics concede that many of the grievances of the 1960s have been rectified. Gerrymandering and housing discrimination have been swept away by decree from London. Under new fair-employment laws, employers guilty of discrimination will face 3,000-pound (\$48,000) fines and the loss of government grants and contracts.

But unemployment is around 18 per cent, Britain's highest, and violence drives away investment and jobs.

Policing remains a thorny problem. The Royal Ulster Constabulary went some way toward proving evenhandedness by standing up to the riots against the Anglo-Irish agreement. But every Catholic, moderate or militant, has a story to tell of physical or verbal abuse in housing and jobs.

In 1968, Catholics began demanding civil rights. Violent Protestant reaction brought in the British army, which soon found itself at war with the IRA. In 1972, the government in London closed the local parliament and assumed direct rule.

In 1985, Prime Minister Mar-

OPEN FORUM

Loving You

I am sitting in the dark,
And I'm thinking of you;
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MEXICAN FOOD<br

Saadawi champions woman's struggle in a male world

By John Fullerton
Reuter

CAIRO—Nawal Al Saadawi has spent time in prison, had armed guards posted outside her front door for her own protection and had some of her work banned because of her campaign for an Arab women's revolt in a male world.

"The authorities telephoned me in 1987 and said they were putting guards outside my house because I was in danger," said the ebullient, white-haired Egyptian novelist.

The 24-hour guard remained there 18 months — apparently because of threats from Muslim militants who regarded one of her books in particular, "The Fall of The Imam," as heresy.

The Imam or Islamic leader in question is a sinister symbol of Pharaonic power — a man or combination of men claiming divine authority.

The book is heavily satirical, and involves the Imam going to heaven and asking God for a reprieve from death. But he has difficulty in getting past reception.

For Saadawi, the Imam represents "dictatorship" in the form of late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, former Sudanese leader Jaafar Numeiri, now exiled in Cairo, and late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"It's all of them," she said. "To me God is justice and freedom. God is an idea inside each of us. In that sense, I'm very religious."

She was dismissed from a senior government position in 1972 because of her political views and the way she expressed them.

In 1984, her novel "God Dies by the Nile" was banned in Egypt.

but Saadawi found a publisher in Beirut prepared to print it.

She has been writing since 1955

and a constant theme has been

woman's struggle against sub-

jigation by the religious and politi-

cal authority of men.

"I cannot distinguish between

class and gender struggle," she

told Reuters. "I am against au-

thority embodied in certain men

in both public and private life."

Speaking up for womanhood

has a long history in Egypt, which

hosted the first Arab women's

feminist conference in the 1930s

and has long led the Arab World

in moving towards equality of the

sexes.

In 1984 a religious mentor of

students, Sheikh Rif'a Rafi al-

Tahat, wrote the first book

calling for the education of

women and an improvement in

their social status.

Qassem Amin, a judge, be-

came known as the liberator of

women after his books, "Liberation of Women" and "The New

Woman," were published in

Egypt in 1981, but her imprisonment

ended with his assassination by

Muslim zealots on October 6 the

same year.

In jail she met a woman named

Firdaus, on whom she based her

novel "Woman at Point Zero".

It tells of a village girl raped at

an early age and forced into

prostitution who finds that money

and well-publicised acts of charity

can provide respectability in a

society devoted to material gain

and status.

A brief flirtation with revolu-

tary ideas develops into

murderous rebellion against sex-

ual enslavement and the threat of

execution. It is a grim tale written with the melodrama and sim-



Saadawi: To me god is justice and freedom

plicity of a thriller.

Saadawi wrote of prison in "The Arrest" and in the preface she paints an astere portrait of herself as an outsider.

"I don't say yes and I don't take part in elections," she wrote. "I don't walk in processions. I have no cliques. I don't go to parties. I don't put on makeup like other women, and don't wash my hair with American shampoo. I don't drink Israeli beer and I feel sick when I read the papers."

Saadawi's feminist campaign does not end with novels.

As a qualified psychiatrist she helps young women suffering from emotional or mental turmoil, and in 1982 she founded the Arab Women's Solidarity Association.

"It is a Pan-Arab organisation devoted to promoting women economically, culturally and politically," she said.

The association was legalised in

Egypt once it gained consultative status with U.N. agencies in 1985. Even so Saadawi said the government blocked public distribution of the first issue of the association's monthly magazine, N.

Once on Saadawi's black list, Saadawi insisted that she was still not completely free in President Hosni Mubarak's Egypt.

"I'm on a grey list, without access to (writing for) television or radio and my occasional contributions to newspapers are subject to haphazard censorship," she said.

Her husband, Sheriff Hetata, is also a qualified doctor who has devoted himself to writing since 1971. A Marxist who spent 14 years behind bars from 1949, he too was one of Egypt's intellectual outsiders.

"It is very difficult to establish yourself as a widely-read novelist in Egypt without access to the media," he said.

RECORD HEAT in London, record heat in Colorado. The geography differs, but the topic is the same. What is new in this usually banal discussion is that we now speak of this phenomenon as induced by man, not a deity, and it is therefore our responsibility. Is it possible that a global climate crisis can alter the way we do business with one another or the way countries interact? History and tradition dictate defended units and borders. Man — singly and collectively — has clawed and killed for his piece of the planet. Now, for the first time in memory, at the Paris summit, the major military and economic forces of the world plead for countries to recognise that air drifts across those boundaries, with scarcely a glance down to see if its breezes are spreading radiation or CFCs over the United Kingdom, Spain, the Soviet Union, or the Sudan.

The heat goes on and the world, now joined by its leaders, ponders. Are the predictions of the scientists that by 2040 the Earth's temperature will rise two to five degrees correct? Do we have time to effect any reversal? What specific steps do we take? And if we do not respond on a global level, does it do much good for one or two countries to act alone? Are we finally in a kind of global lifeboat instead of separate destroyers? These are questions that echo through our minds. The conditions are here for mankind to put down the spears and missiles and watch the horizon at the approach of an almost invisible enemy — one that cannot be defeated with familiar weapons.

The rate of change in atmospheric composition is now 10 to 40 times faster than natural change in the past, measured by gas content in polar ice. The natural rate causes a two degrees Celsius change over 1,000 years. The present rate is causing two to eight degrees change every hundred, according to Steven Schneider of the U.S. National Centre for Atmospheric Research. That there is a "better than even chance for unprecedented change" seems accepted. It is around the nature, extent and effects of change that the debate revolves. Heavily populated coastal zones would be affected by erosion, salinity, and loss of port facilities. In the mid-latitudes, forests would suffer, and in temperate zones, crops

glimmer in some of our eyes. To shore up that hope Thomas Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington offers some practical remedies: global forest management and co-operation on global warming; more protected ecosystems and species; population control; transferring resources to cope with North/South inequities; speeded up technology transfers of environmental information; and a reduction of a nation's debt burden in return for greater environmental protection.

Chief Seattle of the Squamish Indian tribe said in 1851: "Teach your children what we have taught our children: that the

earth is their mother. Whatever

befalls the earth befalls the sons

of earth. If men spit upon the

ground, they spit upon themselves. The earth does not belong

to man, man belongs to the earth. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. The end of living and the beginning of survival."

The world is an integral whole; its sum is larger than its parts, and its inhabitants have been put on notice.

JESSICA HOBBY CATTO is a trustee of the Environmental Defence Fund. The article is reprinted from the *Guardian*.



Nostalgia for the past

Global warming: sharing the sacrifices

By John Michael Kramer

The writer is a Senior Natural Resources Specialist with the International Resources Group in Washington DC.

MOST of the "greenhouse" gases responsible for global warming are being produced by the developed world. The United States alone accounts for over one fifth.

Other Western and Eastern European industrial nations contribute a similar amount each. The developing world's contribution is currently very low primarily carbon dioxide from deforestation in a few countries.

Why is it happening? Essentially it is because the greenhouse gases include a number of chemical compounds which help to retain heat in the earth's atmosphere instead of letting it bleed off into space.

They include carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the burning of fossil fuels and plant material (mainly forests); methane (CH₄) from livestock, landfills and rice paddies; chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in air conditioners and refrigerators; and nitrous oxide (NO₂) from nitrogen fertiliser use, fossil fuel and biomass burning, and land clearing. Carbon dioxide account for about half of the greenhouse effect.

Everyone, however, will suffer. The effects of global warming are not only felt by the polluter.

Although warming effects will be more severe in temperate zones, sea levels will rise everywhere. And the scale of the predicted change will have major implications for climate globally, even though their nature is still unclear.

There are three ways we can respond to global warming. We can try to adapt to increased temperatures; or we could try to slow global warming to tolerable levels; or attempt some combination of the two.

It is conceivable that agriculture and commercial forestry might adapt to a hotter climate,

although this begs the question of the potentially severe effects on biological diversity. But the cost

of protecting the world's coastal areas from rising sea levels would be prohibitive, if possible at all. So it is clear a reduction of the gases is required.

The questions, then, are how to reduce greenhouse gases, how much the task will cost, and who will pay? The North/South issues primarily revolve around carbon dioxide. Not only is it the major greenhouse gas produced by developing countries but tropical forests are an important sink of carbon. Carbon retained in forest biomass means that much less carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere.

But forests are not the only issue. Many developing countries are understandably pushing ahead with their industrialisation. This will require significant increases in fuel energy production from the very low, but rapidly rising, current levels in the developing world.

Will the North treat the South's imperative for economic development, food and land for growing populations?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has already sounded an alarm in a recent report: "If developing countries do not adopt climate stabilising policies, then the equilibrium warming commitment in 2050 could increase by about 40 per cent compared to scenarios in which there is global cooperation."

Given current geopolitics, "global cooperation" could well have the effect of locking in place the current economic inequities between the North and the South, regardless of EPA's worthy intentions.

As we learn more about the process of global warming and its effects, and as it becomes apparent that initial action to reduce global warming has been inadequate, then the world community will have to consider more drastic actions such as massive tree plantations. We shall also have to ensure that the costs borne by countries are commensurate with their contribution to the problem — *Fano features*.

Britain slowly adjusts to multiculturalism

By Maria Balinska

LONDON — Only a few minutes' walk from London's financial district, the bowler-hat and umbrella heart of a white British preserve, is a school where you have to look long and hard for a white face.

Here, at the Mulberry School for Girls in London's East End, the local version of the British school uniform is a tunic and trousers to accommodate the Muslim precept that women's legs be covered. A conversation with the matronly and very British headmistress is punctuated by wafts of Asian music, cumin, and curry. Welcome to multicultural Britain, a reality that is challenging the educational establishment.

And racism, in the commission's view, doesn't just mean individual prejudices of teachers or children. It also means discrimination that is built into the system itself, or what is called institutional racism.

"No teacher will say this to you," says Valerie Davis, a black teacher now in charge of the Development Programme for Racial Equality in the London borough of Brent, "but blacks are labelled as under-achievers. At inner-city schools a lot of teachers buy comic books for their Friday afternoon math classes — they say the pupils will be tired. But they wouldn't dream of doing that in a middle-class school."

The existence of institutional racism was recognised by the 1985 Swann report, an official inquiry into the reasons for underachievement among West Indian pupils.

Today, most regional bureaucracies governing state schools — the Local Education Authority (LEA) — concur with the report's conclusions. Out of 110 authorities nationwide, about 70 have issued statements committing themselves to "anti-racism" policies. Teacher training colleges, too, are making anti-racism an integral part of their courses.

Still, according to Dr. Jack Gundara of the University of

Rejected

This attitude is rejected by the Commission for Racial Equality, a government body set up by the 1987 Race Relations Act. The commission has "gone beyond the tokenism of multiculturalism," in the words of its spokesman Andrew Dorn, to tackle head-on what it sees as the major problem facing multiracial schools — racism.

Take Burnage High School. Situated in a mixed-race, working-class area of Manchester, Burnage made national headlines in 1986 when a 13-year-old Asian schoolboy was stabbed to death by a white classmate. What a particularly shocked the teaching profession was that the school was known for its commitment to anti-racism. The independent inquiry into the murder was a condemnation of how not to apply anti-racism.

"Moral anti-racism... based on the assumption that all white students are to be seen as racists... led to a polarisation between black and white students." What this dogmatic anti-white version of anti-racism meant in practice was that the community education department in a school where two-thirds of the student body was white was uniquely directed to Afro-Caribbean and Asian parents and children.

The authors of the report, all well-respected specialists in the race-relations field, made clear that they were not criticising anti-racism per se, only Burnage's interpretation. But the report provided ready ammunition in what the commission has called "the smear campaign" against the whole idea of anti-racist education.

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A scene from the much-acclaimed *My Beautiful Laundrette*, a film about British Asians.

Oblivious

At the Mulberry School, headmistress Daphne Gould is oblivious to semantics. For her it's all very simple. "Anti-racism is a full education. Part of your duty is to educate students to challenge received opinion." She dismisses the notion that talking about racism will create it: "If you stand by, then you're condoning it. An extreme example of that is what happened in Nazi Germany."

Gould oversees a student body where whites, at 15 per cent, are a minority among children of Bangladeshi origin. An anti-racist approach here means, among other things, making sure white students are not on their own in the classroom.

Ghali urges attention to Third World

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Egyptian official Monday appealed to the Western World to help reduce Africa's heavy debt burden and said unless more attention was paid to this problem, the existence of some countries would be threatened.

Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also said African states should cooperate among themselves before expecting help from the Western World.

The minister made the appeal while outlining to foreign reporters his country's new duties resulting from the election of President Hosni Mubarak as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) two weeks ago.

"As president of the OAU,

Mubarak has been mandated to seek a new strategy toward a North-South dialogue," he said referring to talks and cooperation between the industrialised countries and the impoverished African and South American states.

"What is important is to create a political will among the rich of the North to pay attention to the problems of the South."

"When you are wealthy and rich you have no time to take care

of the underdogs."

Africa's foreign debts amount to \$230 billion, and the continent has some of the poorest nations in the world, many of them beset by civil wars or natural disasters such as droughts and floods.

He said that while Egypt welcomed the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union and Western and Eastern Europe, it was concerned those countries might ignore the problems of the developing states.

"Today the United States and Europe are more interested by East-West rapprochement and the debt problem and the disputes between some states. He

sequence would be marginalisation of the Third World."

"The real problem is not so much of co-existence between South and North, but of existence of some countries in the (Third) World."

Ghali also criticised African nations for failing to achieve unity and cooperation, but warned that Europe might soon have at its doorstep "in North Africa, destabilisation, insecurity due to poverty."

In his inaugural speech at the OAU summit on July 24, Mubarak pledged to work toward easing the debt problem and the disputes between some states. He

World

mentioned no specific conflicts.

Ghali said OAU member states and governments had mandated Mubarak to help solve regional disputes including those between Mauritania and Senegal, Chad and Libya, and Morocco and the Polisario Front over the Western Sahara.

He said Mubarak, who took over the OAU chairmanship from President Mousa Traore of Mali, is also assigned to "help ensure free elections" in Namibia next November.

Ghali is considered one of Egypt's best specialists on African affairs



Boutros Ghali

Japan reports 32 months of economic growth

TOKYO (AP) — Expansion of the domestic economy is driving one of Japan's longest periods of continued economic growth, the government reported Tuesday.

The Economic Planning Agency, summarising trends in the fiscal year ending in March 1989, said Japan has achieved 32 months of consecutive economic growth through July. This makes the current growth period the country's third longest, after a 42-month period starting in 1958 and a 57-month boom beginning in 1965.

The report said that the boom was driven by the economic growth, stimulated by high personal consumption, strong private investment and stable prices. It also predicted that such growth will continue.

Japan's real gross national product (GNP), a measure of the total goods and services produced by a nation, rose by 5.1 per cent in 1988, following 5.2 per cent growth in 1987, the EPA said.

Spurred by the high level of the yen, which makes exports expensive and imports cheap, domestic demand contributed 6.8 percentage points to the GNP growth.

Japan's current account surplus, a major source of friction with other countries, declined from 3.3 per cent of nominal GNP in 1987 to 2.7 per cent in 1988, the report said.

Exports increased 6.0 per cent in fiscal 1988 while imports increased 13.7 per cent.

Japan has achieved some but not all of the goals of the Maekawa Report, said Tsutomu Tanaka, director general of the research bureau of the EPA.

The Maekawa Report, presented to former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1986, advocated far-reaching structural readjustment of the economy.

It focused on shifting to domestic demand-led growth in order to create a more balanced economy and reduce Japan's huge current account surplus. Tanaka noted that market

forces, particularly the rise of the yen, have driven the economy toward many of the goals outlined in the report, while institutional reform such as rationalisation of the distribution system and business practices have moved more slowly.

The current boom has been marked by healthy expansion of increasingly sophisticated plant and equipment investment, the report said. Private plant investment increased 17.9 per cent over the previous year, the highest rate of growth in twenty years, while corporate profits grew strongly.

Investment figures reveal that although the high cost of the yen makes export from Japan difficult and has encouraged overseas investment by manufacturers, businesses are still investing in manufacturing capacity at home.

"We find that the firms which invest abroad also invest in Japan," Tanaka said.

Another feature of the current boom has been a change in people's attitudes, he said. They spend more, save less, and seem more interested in leisure activities.

"More Japanese travel overseas and want more sophisticated goods," he said.

But paradoxically, the average number of working hours per year has actually increased since 1987 because the labour shortage caused by the booming economy has created a greater demand for overtime work.

The agency reported that the average number of scheduled work hours declined by 0.3 per cent in 1988, but the time spent working overtime increased by 8.1 per cent.

Soaring values of stocks and land are widening an assets gap among the predominantly middle-class Japanese. The report noted that the value of the real estate and stock assets had increased 15.5 times more than GNP.

"Japan has been known for a fair distribution of income, but we're starting to see differentials," he said.

The paper recommended that Japan make further efforts to open its markets to promote its domestic-led expansion. It also advocated cautious fiscal and monetary policies to prevent inflation.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

July customs fees amount to JD 19,665

AMMAN (Petra) — Revenues to the treasury from customs fees in the past month amounted to JD 19,665, registering an increase of JD 1,307 million over the figures of the same month of last year, according to a statistical bulletin released Tuesday. The bulletin by the Customs Department said that total revenues from customs in the past seven months was JD 92,813,671, less from the first seven months of 1988 by JD 4,256,586.

Minister predicts oil price range

KUWAIT (AP) — Oil prices are expected to range between \$15 and \$18 until the end of the year, Kuwait's oil minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday. Sheikh Ali also told the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam that Kuwait is planning a "vast petrochemical complex" aimed at increasing exports of oil products but gave no details of the project. "Oil prices are expected to range between \$15 and \$18 for the remaining part of the year," he said, adding that if they fluctuate more broadly "an emergency OPEC conference should be held to consider the situation." But he said the organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "should leave prices to move within a margin to reflect the performance of the market forces," he said. Sheikh Ali arrived in Abu Dhabi Monday for talks with his United Arab Emirates counterpart, Mame Saeed Oteiba, on market developments and coordination among the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council's oil producers. The talks are to prepare for a September meeting of the 13-member cartel's market monitoring committee. Sheikh Ali visited Saudi Arabia last week for similar talks with Oil Minister Hisham Nazer last week. He also conferred in Doha on the price issue with the Qatari oil minister, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa Al Thani.

HONG KONG (R) — China's oil production is being seriously hit by theft of vital equipment that has caused fires, blowouts and large-scale electricity cuts in major fields, the China News Service (CNS) said Tuesday. The country's six major oilfields suffered material losses worth over \$160 million in 1988, the semi-official news agency said. CNS, monitored here, said there were a total of 2,100 cases of stealing, ransacking and sabotage reported in Daqing, Shengli, Zhongyuan, Huabei, Daigang and Henan oilfields last year. Another 850 cases were reported in the first quarter of this year and the number was increasing, the report said. It said thieves were organising themselves into groups to coordinate the theft, transportation and melting down of metal equipment such as piping. Such theft is increasing as robbery becomes a major problem in China. Reports about communication lines being stolen for the copper content, coal trucks being robbed on highways and even trains being ransacked have appeared in the Chinese press in recent years.

China's oilfields hit by theft

TOKYO (R) — Japanese aid to poor nations rose sharply in the second quarter this year, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. Japan provided grants totalling 68.03 billion yen (\$489 million) to 40 developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the April-June quarter, up from 44.74 billion (\$321 million) to 43 nations a year earlier. The grants are to boost education, agriculture and medical facilities, the officials said. The biggest donation, over two billion yen (\$14.4 million), was for polo vaccination in Indonesia. Japan, which was formerly criticised by other rich countries for not transferring enough of its wealth to poor nations, has recently substantially increased its aid to the Third World.

S. Korea orders firing of 2,100 teachers

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Education Ministry has threatened to dismiss 2,173 teachers for refusing to quit a national union banned by the government, a ministry spokesman said Monday. He said 560 union organisers had already been dismissed and another 2,173 would lose their jobs unless they renounced union membership within a week. The defiant teachers, who briefly went on hunger strike last month protesting at laws blocking them from setting up unions, say they want better working conditions and independence from government control. The ministry, accusing the teachers of trying to imbue students with "leftist revolutionary ideologies", rejected calls for a compromise. More than 9,800 other teachers originally joined the union but later quit after the ministry threatened to sack them.

Iran covers cost of repairing refinery

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has recovered more than half the cost of repairing the war-damaged Abadan Refinery with exports in only four months, the Iranian News Agency IRNA has said. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a refinery official as saying Abadan had exported fuel oil worth \$80 million since it reopened on April 1. The refinery resumed operations with an initial output of 130,000 barrels of by-products per day. The cost of repair has been estimated at \$120 million, IRNA said. It said output at the plant was 600,000 barrels per day before the start of the Iran-Iraq war in September 1980. The daily Albar newspaper quoted a refinery official as saying: "With the start of the second phase in the near future, refining capacity will be increased to 380,000 barrels per day." He said 6,000 people were working at the refinery, one third of the number before the gulf war, but more could be hired once production increased.

Mozambique cannot repay debt

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique, struggling to rebuild a war-shattered economy, says it cannot pay back its foreign debt of \$4 billion and wants more Western creditors to write off chunks of it or agree to easier payment terms. "We have been trying to convince creditor nations that Mozambique cannot pay the debt," Bank of Mozambique Governor Enicas Comiche told Reuters in an interview. Mozambique's foreign debt totalled \$4.2 billion at the end of 1988. The Paris Club of Western creditor governments agreed in June 1987 to reschedule part of the debt. Mozambique has since made bilateral agreements with seven Paris Club nations to write off debt or grant concessionary interest rates, Comiche said. Mozambique says it cannot pay commercial rates and is asking creditors to accept interest at around two per cent. Comiche said more help was needed to lighten the debt to allow the government to concentrate on developing the economy.

Arab Bank Corporation to raise capital to \$1b

NICOSIA (R) — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), Bahrain's largest offshore bank, said it was intending to raise its capital by \$250 million to \$1 billion.

The group said last week in pre-tape records for the first half of 1989 rose to \$72 million from \$68 million in the same period of last year. Its assets jumped to \$1 billion in June against \$1.7 billion the year before.

Saudi said the bank would issue new shares for shareholders after member states ratified the proposed move.

The increase in the capital will be used to finance the setting up of a new branch in a European capital, Saudi said.

The Bahrain-based bank is

owned one-third each by Kuwait, Libya and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

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Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain have stock exchanges. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are planning to open exchanges.

OPEC still supplying too much oil — Indonesian aide

JAKARTA (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is still pumping too much oil onto the world market and forcing prices down, the energy minister for the cartel's only Asian member said Monday.

"We don't know OPEC's oil supplies for August yet but for sure they are above quota. It still has to be checked by how much," Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Gimantoro Kartasasmita told reporters.

OPEC agreed in June on a supply ceiling of 19.5 million barrels per day until the end of the year and a price target of \$18 for each barrel.

Gimantoro laid the blame for falling prices, which have dropped nearly \$2 in the past month, squarely at OPEC's door.

"The drop in the oil price was certainly caused by the lack of unity within OPEC," he said.

Although he did not name any country, industry analysts say Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates are largely responsible for the excess supplies.

"If all OPEC members produce within their quota it is certain that oil prices will be higher... If members stick to the quota the \$18 level would be guaranteed," Gimantoro said.

However, he disputed figures issued last week by the Paris-

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, August 8, 1989 Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)
\$80.1	88.1	416.9 421.1
937.3	946.7	Dutch guilder 270.2 272.9
304.8	307.8	Swiss franc 89.5 90.4
354.5	358.0	Italian lire (for 100) 42.4 42.6
90.1	91.0	Belgian franc (for 10) 143.2 146.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1989		
One Sterling	1,6230/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1,1720/30	Canadian dollar
	1,8968/75	Deutschmarks
	2,1377/87	Dutch guilders
	1,6300/10	Swiss francs
	39,70/73	Belgian francs
	6,4150/200	French francs
	1364/1365	Italian lire
	139,00/10	Japanese yen
	6,4620/70	Swedish kronas
	6,9510/60	Norwegian kronas
	7,3720/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	366.40/366.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Sydney — Wall Street gains spurred demand for blue chip shares. The All Ordinaries Index gained 19 points to 1,699.

Tokyo — Summer doldrums kept turnover low but the Nikkei Index gained 129.1 points to 34,759.48.

Hong Kong — The Hang Seng Index gained 44.17 on the back of Wall Street to top a psychological barrier at 2,600 and close at 2,607.94.

Singapore — Singapore shares were boosted by Wall Street's rally. The Straits Times Industrials gained 10.02 points to 1,361.76.

Sports

Hillsborough sparks multi-million plan

LONDON (R) — Top English soccer clubs are to be given four million pounds sterling (\$6.5 million) towards the installation of more seats in terraces at their grounds following the Hillsborough tragedy when 95 fans were crushed to death.

A trust funded by football pools companies said Monday the money would be given to all first division clubs and others with an average attendance of more than 10,000.

Tom Wharton, chairman of the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, said that following the Hillsborough disaster clubs had been under pressure to convert standing room on terraces into seating.

"While we would not necessarily advocate all-seater stadia, we felt that clubs should be given every assistance to improve existing facilities," Wharton said.

It was estimated that the cost of conversions at the first division clubs and 14 others that qualified would be around eight million pounds (\$13 million).

"The trust has therefore provided half the figure needed and clubs will be able to apply for grants of up to 50 per cent of the expenditure involved," Wharton said.

"We anticipate that this initiative will be only the first stage in the trust's efforts to assist league clubs with the introduction of more seating and we hope to be able to help other clubs in the near future."

Viola: don't change your forte

NEW YORK (AP) — After the New York Mets completed a three-game sweep of Montreal, Frank Viola stood at his locker looking as if he just pitched both ends of a doubleheader.

Viola wasn't tired from throwing, he was just weary from watching.

The newest Met watched his baseball team battle Montreal for 14 innings Sunday before Kevin Reynolds gave New York a 2-1 victory with a home run.

"I've seen more bunting in the last five days than I saw in eight seasons with the Twins," Viola said.

Welcome to the National League, Frank.

Viola saw four sacrifice bunts Sunday and several more

attempts that didn't quite work.

He also saw 10 pitchers in the game and seven different names listed as the Mets' leadoff batter.

For the Expos, the third slot was rather crowded, featuring eight names.

"I love it," Viola said. "This was the brand of baseball I was brought up on."

Viola grew up on Long Island, only a few miles from Shea Stadium, and his father took him to about 10 Mets games a year.

A Cy Young award winner for the Minnesota Twins last year with a 24-7 record, Viola now

learning a new league after being acquired by the Mets last week.

"I've seen some of the guys in spring training, and a few played in the American League," Viola

said, "but for awhile, I'll let my catchers let me know what's going on."

On Saturday night, Viola watched left-hander Mark Langston continue his education in the National League.

Langston won three strikeout

with Seattle, a team in the American League. But National League batters aren't seeing his fastball or curve any better since he was traded to the Expos in May.

In 14 starts for Montreal, Langston is 9-3 with 113 strikeouts in 109, 2-3 innings and a 1.97

earned-run average.

"I don't think you can change what has made you successful," Langston said. "You do have to get a book on new hitters and how the umpire's strike zone differ. The pitcher might have a slight advantage at first, but it all even out."

A change of leagues may have saved the career of Montreal's Dennis Martinez, who is 12-1 and has won 11 straight.

Baltimore thought Martinez was through and traded him to Montreal in 1986 for two minor leaguers.

In a straight line the Channel is

21 miles (33 kilometers) wide. But the action of tides, winds and currents generally increases the distance swimmers must cover to about 40 miles (64 kilometers).

"If avoiding a swimmer hazards the ship, crew, passengers and cargo... there is only one thing a captain can do and that's go over him," the senior coast guard watch officer at Dover, Peter Legg, was quoted as saying in an interview in the Times of London.

"We devote ourselves to saving lives so it is difficult for us to say this. But while we might lose one life we could save many more," Legg was further quoted Tuesday.

"Frankly, we don't want them [Channel swimmers]."

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Toshiki Kaifu (centre), who was elected Tuesday as president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), holds a pre-election news conference with two have-been contenders for the party job.

former Health and Welfare Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and former Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara.

Former minister elected LDP president

Kaifu heads for premiership

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elected Toshiki Kaifu as its leader Tuesday, making him the certain choice to succeed Sosuke Uno as the next prime minister.

"I want to carry out reforms and pass reform legislation based on our deep self-reflection. We must carry out political reforms and shed our old skin," Kaifu declared after his selection by the scandal-rocked party.

Kaifu was expected to be elected prime minister Wednesday by the Lower House of Parliament, which is dominated by Liberal Democrats. The 58-year-old former education minister is the LDP's third leader in just over two months.

"This is a crucial time for our party, so it will be a great responsibility," Kaifu told reporters at a news conference following Tuesday's party ballot.

Kaifu faces the severe challenge of restoring public trust in the LDP following widespread disaffection over the so-called Recruit influence peddling scandal and controversy surrounding Uno.

Seventeen people were arrested in bribery and other charges in the Recruit scandal, which involved sales of large numbers of unlisted shares in the

real estate subsidiary of the Recruit company publishing conglomerate.

Three cabinet ministers also resigned due to Recruit links, but were neither arrested nor charged. But former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita resigned to take responsibility for the scandal.

Takeshita's successor, Uno, was plagued by reports that he kept paid mistresses, and announced his resignation July 24 to take responsibility for the LDP's loss in upper-house elections.

Tuesday was the first time in 17 years that the Liberal Democrats decided to elect their president through a vote of LDP lawmakers and 47 delegates from regional party organisations.

Kaifu, a two-time former education minister, received 279 votes against 120 for Yoshiro Hayashi, former health and welfare minister, and 48 for Shintaro Ishihara, novelist and former transportation minister. Four of the 451 votes were invalid.

Burmese mark uprising

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese Tuesday marked the first anniversary of a general strike that turned into a bloody national uprising with a small hunger strike, diplomats said.

Seventy members of the National League for Democracy, Burma's largest opposition party, began a fast on the grounds of the league's headquarters in Rangoon.

Envoy said more troops than usual patrolled the capital. Soldiers removed placards listing the hunger strikers' grievances and appeals for political freedom but did not otherwise interfere and there was no violence, the envoy said.

The rigidly controlled state-owned press Tuesday ran several

articles alleging that communist subversives had infiltrated and duped the league and other opposition groups.

A Japanese journalist accredited to enter Burma (Myanmar) said he was denied admission Monday.

Correspondent Yasushi Tomiyama of the Jiji News Agency said immigration officials told him on arrival at Rangoon airport that journalists were barred from the country and sent him back to Bangkok the same day.

"I was told there were orders from superiors that journalists cannot enter," Tomiyama, 38, said. The Bangkok-based reporter had a visa issued by the Burmese embassy here granting him entry as a journalist between

June and September.

Tomiyama said he intended to report on the situation in Burma a year after the Aug. 8 general strike, which erupted into a week of violence as troops opened fire in an attempt to crush dissent.

That attack sparked a nationwide uprising that overthrew the former government and led to a violent military takeover in September, during which, diplomats said, the army killed and injured thousands of people.

Since July, authorities have stepped up suppression of anti-government activities, arresting hundreds of opposition organizers and putting popular Democracy League leader Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest.

Under the new agreement, the World Court could rule on whether a hijacker should be extradited if a dispute arose over his sentence or legal status.

Several years ago, a hijacker who landed in West Berlin was tried by a U.S. judge and received a light sentence of time already served while awaiting trial. East European officials had sought extradition or a severe sentence.

Under the new agreement, the World Court could rule on whether a hijacker should be extradited if a dispute arose over his sentence or legal status.

The pact is the latest U.S.-Soviet move to enhance the authority of the court, formally known as the International Court of Justice at the Hague, which is the main judicial body of the United Nations.

Superpowers agree to obey

World Court in 7 treaties

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and Soviet Union have agreed to accept the world court's authority in seven treaties that punish hijackers and drug traffickers, U.S. officials said Monday.

Five of the treaties cover airline hijacking, sabotage and terrorism, and require hijackers and terrorists to be tried or extradited. Two treaties call for seizure of the assets of drug lords and the trial or extradition of drug traffickers.

Under the agreement, Washington and Moscow will submit disputes over interpretation of the treaties to an arbitration panel of five of the World Court's 15 judges, said U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Both parties must agree upon which five judges will be the arbiters, allaying fears by either side that the entire court would be biased. The arbiters' ruling

would be binding on both sides.

The agreement was signed Thursday by U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer and his counterpart in the Soviet Foreign ministry, Yuri M. Rybakov.

Under its provisions, Washington and Moscow eventually could submit other treaties to arbitration, although disputes involving national security or the use of force are exempt.

That would avoid cases like Nicaragua's 1986 dispute with Washington, in which the Sandinista government contended the United States was illegally mining its harbors and supporting the contra rebels. The U.S. government refused to honour a world court ruling that sided with the Sandinistas.

A U.S. legal adviser said there were no current cases involving hijacking, terrorism or drug trafficking to test the new U.S.-Soviet agreement, but noted such

cases have arisen before.

Aircraft hijackers from Eastern Europe have landed in Berlin's western sector in the past, and such cases could come under the new agreement, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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I think New Zealand's relations with Australia are the most important relations we have," Palmer said. "The closer economic relationship we have with Australia is a key part of the performance of the New Zealand economy."

Move to disband U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels

Latin leaders agree on contras

TEL AVIV (R) — Central American presidents, defying the United States in an agreement made public Monday, called for Nicaragua's U.S.-backed contra rebels to be disbanded within four months and to return to Nicaragua.

The agreement hammered out in the Honduran seaside resort of Tela could end an eight-year-old war that the U.S.-backed contras have waged against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reacted cautiously to reports of the Tela agreement. "It is important that (Nicaragua's) words should be followed by action," he said in Mexico City where he was meeting Mexican officials.

"We are very pleased with the steps the Nicaraguan government has taken on dialogue," he said,

adding however the contra rebels must be given guarantees if they disarm.

On his return to Managua from Tela, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said the disbanding meant "a death sentence" for the contra rebels.

In Miami, some contra leaders rejected the plan to disarm and disband the rebel army and vowed to keep their forces intact until after the elections.

"The whole idea of our people being able to go back safely to their homes in Nicaragua is ridiculous," Jose Medina Cuadra, president of the political assembly of the Nicaraguan fighters, told Reuters.

At a news conference in Tela at the end of the three-day summit, Ortega told reporters, "I hope that the U.S. government headed by President Bush will give total

support to the agreement of the Central American presidents and that funds approved for humanitarian aid to the contras be used for this demobilisation plan."

Under the plan, a commission formed by the United Nations and the Organization of American States within 30 days of the announcement of the pact would oversee the disbanding and disarming. It would also make arrangements for rebels who refused to return home to go to third countries.

Nicaragua agreed to give land and economic aid to contras who wanted to farm in Nicaragua.

The plan is voluntary and Nicaraguan officials said its success depended on the cooperation of the United States, the rebels' chief backer.

The U.S. Congress approved \$50 million in humanitarian aid to

the contras last April in a law which said the funds could be used for the disbanding of the contras.

The presidents approved the pact despite lobbying from the U.S. administration to keep the rebels intact at least until elections are held in Nicaragua next February.

The rebels, some 12,000 of whom are based in Honduras with their families, also oppose moves to disband them.

The Central American presidents called for an end to the civil war in El Salvador and urged leftist Salvadoran guerrillas to open a dialogue with the government.

Nicaragua agreed that it would withdraw a complaint against Honduras before the World Court.

Column 10

U2 guitarist arrested

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Adam Clayton of the Irish rock group U2 has been charged with possession of marijuana. The 21-year-old bass guitarist, dressed all in black, appeared briefly in Dublin's district court Monday but under Irish law was not required to enter a plea. Clayton was arrested near his Dublin home Sunday night and charged with possessing marijuana and with having the drug with the intent to supply someone else, police told the court. Judge Desmond Wade ordered Clayton to post bail of approximately \$710 and set a trial date of Sept. 1. If convicted of possession of marijuana, Clayton faces a maximum fine of approximately \$1,420. Police said there is no fixed penalty for a conviction for possession of the drug with intent to supply, and the judge usually takes into account the circumstances of the arrest and the amount of drug involved.

Police, firemen chase piglets

SCHONDRING, West Germany (R) — Police, firemen and veterans many surgeons chased 100 terrified piglets along an autobahn in northern Bavaria Tuesday after a truck loaded with the animals overturned. It was four hours before the last one was rounded up. Another 500 piglets died in the accident while the driver and his mate were injured.

Gabor may not get what she wants

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Zsa Zsa Gabor may not see any misconduct complaint in the personnel file of the policeman who arrested her following a

street confrontation, a judge ruled. Municipal Judge Charles G. Rubin issued the order during a pretrial hearing focusing on the file of officer Paul Kramer, whom Gabor has described as an "empty-headed, gorgous man" and a "sodas." Kramer arrested Gabor June 14 after he ordered her to pull her car over so he could investigate a registration violation, and she drove off as he checked for other infractions. When he stopped her two blocks later, she allegedly backhanded him across the face, knocking off his glasses. Authorities charged Gabor with misdemeanor battery on a policeman, disobeying a policeman's orders, driving with an expired license, having an open container of alcohol in her car and carrying an expired registration. The defense for Gabor contends the officer has a history of harassment against celebrities.

Louganis settles suit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis has settled a lawsuit against his former housemate and business manager who was allegedly threatening the champion diver. "The lawsuit has been amicably resolved," Louganis' attorney, Pat Benson, announced. No details were disclosed. Louganis, who won gold medals for springboard and platform diving in both the 1984 and 1988 summer games, has turned to an acting career. In March, Superior Court Judge Dzmitra Janava ordered R. James Babbitt to stay at least 150 metres away from Louganis unless they mutually agreed to closer contact. But the judge refused to order Babbitt out of the Malibu home they shared for four years. On March 13, Louganis fired Babbitt, his manager for six years, and the Olympic champ alleged that Babbitt threatened to make public "confidential and private facts" about him unless Louganis retired or compensated him.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	°C	°F	°C	°F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	17	23	22	72	72	72	Cloudy
ATHENS	21	35	35	95	33	91	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	25	77	53	77	53	77	Cloudy
BANGKOK	22	72	34	93	32	90	Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	12	53	33	91	22	72	Cloudy
CARIO	22	72	34	93	32	90	Cloudy
CHICAGO	11	62	23	73	22	72	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	15	59	23	72	22	72	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	17	63	26	79	26	79	Cloudy
GENEVA	18	61	31	88	29	84	Cloudy
HONG KONG	28	82	32	89	30	86	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	19	66	32	91	31	88	Cloudy
LONDON	17	61	23	72	23	72	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	20	63	29	84	51	91	Cloudy
MOSCOW	27	82	43	108	35	95	Cloudy
MONTREAL	15	57	26	79	22	72	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	28	82	32	89	30	86	Cloudy
NEW YORK	25	77	31	88	24	78	Cloudy
PARIS	26	59	35	95	33	91	Cloudy
ROME	20	63	43	104	51	91	Cloudy
SYDNEY	14	54	34	93	21	70	Cloudy
TOKYO	25	77	35	95	32	90	Cloudy
VIENNA	18	65	28	78	26	78	Cloudy

